

Global Surveyor of the Year 2024 - A Profile of Eng. Martín Chaverri Roig

Engineer Martín Chaverri Roig was one of the most prominent Costa Rican professionals in the field of topography and geodesy.

He was born in San José, Costa Rica, on 6 October 1916. He completed his primary studies at the Buenaventura Corrales School, also known as 'Escuela Metálica', while he completed his secondary education at the Liceo de Costa Rica, a teaching institution with great tradition and respect at the national level.

His passion for topography became his profession in 1939, when he obtained a degree in said engineering. He graduated from International Schools by correspondence from the United States and other parts of the world, a process that was common at that time.

He practiced his profession in various areas and sectors. In 1940, he worked for the Compañía Nacional de Fuerza y Luz de Costa Rica. In June 1942, he worked for the Costa Rica-Panama Boundary Commission.

After the Fiscal Cadastre of Costa Rica was established, he worked in Direct Taxation and then in the Ministry of Government in the development of the Legal Cadastre pilot plan. This project was carried out with the advice of the American Agency for International Development (AID) and the German Technical Mission.

He was tenacious in the development of the country's National Cadastre. In 1945, after the founding of the National Geographic Institute of Costa Rica, he worked as head of triangulation and later was head of cartography and, since 1951, head of cadastre. Years later, he assumed the directorship of the National Cadastre.

A born visionary and dedicated public servant. He was a professor at the Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) and the Universidad Nacional (UNA).

He also shared his knowledge in academia, in a vast teaching career. He was a professor at the UCR, in the Faculty of Engineering with surveyor expert courses. At UNA, he taught about valuation in the School of Topography, Cadastre and Geodesy.

He was a professor of the astronomy and geodesy course at the Universidad de Costa Rica. He was also part of the working group for the preparation of the curriculum for the Diploma in Topography.

In 1984 he taught the Elementary Topography course for architects at the Véritas University.

In November 1978, Eng. Chaverri was named an Honorary Member of the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica (CFIA) in recognition of his professional work and support for the Institution of Engineers in the country.

He held several positions on the Boards of Directors of the Colegio de Ingenieros Topógrafos de Costa Rica (CIT) and the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos (CFIA).

Eng. Martin Chaverri is remembered for his professionalism, diligence, simplicity, and wisdom.